

## Today's News - Tuesday, March 30, 2010

- Six ways we've already geo-engineered the earth, creating "a geological age of mankind's making" (amazing - if depressing - visuals).
- Forget L.A. and San Francisco - it's the Pacific Northwest that's "most vulnerable to a mega-quake like Chile's" (this from an engineer/earthquake consultant).
- Hosey on the potential for Wal-Mart to "revolutionize supply chains and utterly redefine the green building market."
- Austin Williams gives a lively report on a fiery, sometimes ill-tempered debate about architecture and climate change (even Ken Yeang ticked people off).
- A radical architect says "sustainable" is not a good enough word for what he wants to build.
- For architects and activists, the design for the Columbia River Crossing between Washington and Oregon is one "only a mother could love...not driven by any single architectural ideal" (even the engineers who designed it agree).
- Forget Spanish tile or pink stucco - Newport Beach, CA, picks a bold statement inspired by the ocean for its new civic center.
- Oklahoma City's newest neighborhood is designed specifically for old fashioned window shopping (what a refreshing concept!).
- Rawsthorn can't shake her dislike of the 2012 Olympics logo; one way to make it better: dump the "dodgy typeface" at least (a student gets it right).
- Eyefuls of the 2010 European Prize for Urban Public Space winners (some surprises!).
- Call for entries: The Earth Awards 2010 - A Global Search for Sustainable Innovations; and Pratt's Mobile Voter Registration and Info Center Design Competition.
- Eight years in the making, PBS premieres "I.M. Pei: Building China Modern" tomorrow: an "intimate portrait of the man who set as his goal nothing less than the redefinition of architecture in modern China."
- One we couldn't resist: Las Vegas's top five nightclub bathrooms ("the places to go when you have to go" - and pix to prove it).

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[6 Ways We're Already Geoengineering Earth: From diverting a third of Earth's available fresh water to planting and grazing two-fifths of its land surface...We now live in the Anthropocene, a geological age of mankind's making. \[images, links\]](#) - Wired

[Op-Ed: Shake, Rattle, Seattle: ...based on the kind of damage that buildings suffered in Chile, tall structures in the earthquake zones of the United States appear to be at much higher risk than we thought. This lesson should be of obvious concern to San Francisco and Los Angeles. But it is actually the Pacific Northwest that is most vulnerable to a mega-quake like Chile's. By Peter Yanev - New York Times](#)

[Could Wal-Mart Save the Green Building Industry? ...Heritage Agriculture program could revive local farming all across the country. What if they did the same with building supplies? ...could revolutionize supply chains and utterly redefine the green building market. Bring on Heritage Construction. By Lance Hosey - Architect Magazine](#)

[The mantownhuman debates: The first in the series of debates, sponsored by BD, got off to a fiery start with a row about "Architecture and Climate Change" ...however ill-tempered at times, was a useful reminder about the need for meaningful engagement about the future visions for our society. By Austin Williams -- Mayer Hillman; Ken Yeang; Craig White/White Design; Charlie Peel/Building Futures - Future Cities Project \(U.K.\)](#)

[Greening urban architecture: A radical architect has ideas on promoting environmentalism in cities with stackable cars and homes built into trees. He also says "sustainable" is not a good enough word to describe his goals for buildings. -- Mitchell Joachim/Terreform ONE/Terreuge \[audio, links\] - Minnesota Public Radio \(MPR\)](#)

[New direction urged for Columbia River Crossing: Architects, activist feel current design fails to inspire, embrace its surroundings...10-lane freeway bridge is a sprawl-inducing ode to a bygone era or a multibillion-dollar experiment in misguided social engineering -- or both...a design that only a mother could love...not driven by any single architectural ideal. - The Columbian \(Vancouver, Washington\)](#)

[Swept Away: Bold statement chosen for Newport Beach civic center...a compelling case for contemporary design, unfettered by references to Spanish tile or pink stucco: A silhouette clearly inspired by the ocean...project also includes a 15-acre park with wetlands restoration... -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Peter Walker and Partners \[image\] - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Classen Curve reintroduces window-shopping to Oklahoma City: ...innovative upscale shopping and entertainment destination...has no sea of surface parking... a place that will nurture some of the city's most creative retailers and restaurateurs. -- Rand Elliott/Elliott + Associates Architects \[images\] - The Oklahoman](#)

[Despite Changes, There's Little to Love in 2012 Olympics Logo: It's too late for a new one but not too late to improve it. Garish colors, aggressive shapes and dodgy typography are just a few of its design crimes. By Alice Rawsthorn -- Wolff Olins - New York Times](#)

[2010 European Prize for Urban Public Space Winners Announced -- KARO\\*/Architektur+Netzwerk; Snøhetta; Atelier Kempe Thill; Office of Architecture in Barcelona; atelier d'architecture autogérée; Irisarri + Piñera \[images\] - Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona \(CCCB\)](#)

[Call for entries: The Earth Awards 2010 - A Global Search for Sustainable Innovations Designed for the 21st Century in Built Environment, Fashion, Products, Systems, Future and Social Justice; cash prizes; deadline: May 10- The Earth Awards](#)

[Call for entries: Mobile Voter Registration and Info Center Design Competition;](#)

[cash prizes; deadline: June 15- Pratt Manhattan Gallery](#)

[I.M. Pei Returns to China in PBS Documentary: "I.M. Pei: Building China Modern" airing March 31 on PBS...follows Pei as he returns to the 2,500-year-old city of his ancestors to construct a museum -- Pei Partnership Architects; Charles Jencks - Architectural Record](#)

["I.M. Pei: Building China Modern": Eight years in the making...explores the defining conflicts of our age -- the lure of the modern versus the pull of history...a surprisingly revealing and intimate portrait of the man who set as his goal nothing less than the redefinition of architecture in modern China; on PBS American Masters March 31...will stream online for 3 months... \[links, video\]- PBS](#)

[Las Vegas' top five nightclub bathrooms: The places to go when you have to go...visiting the loo at a Las Vegas club is anything but routine. -- Charles Doell/Mr. Important Design; YWS Architects/Cleo Design; 555 Design \[images\]- Las Vegas Weekly](#)

[Celebratory Meditations on SANAA Winning the Pritzker Prize. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow](#)

[Book Review: Keeping the Architectural Profession Professional: "Architecture from the Outside In: Selected Essays by Robert Gutman"...essays by a penetrating sociologist of architecture pose the kinds of tough-minded questions needed now to keep architectural professional on-track.By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow](#)



[Jean Nouvel: National Museum of Qatar, Doha Corniche, Qatar](#)

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